

# PLANNING AHEAD

## Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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### Vacancy Announcements

#### Chief of Planning and Policy Division, Civil Works and Management Directorate – North Atlantic Division

This is a GS-15 position fillable from a number of engineering, environmental, or social science career series. PCS expenses – the most desirable relocation option – will be authorized. But the position's really interesting aspect is that though the job is Planning and Policy Chief for NAD, the successful candidate may locate at NAD or any of its districts in New England (greater Boston area), New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or even at HQ in Washington DC. These location options illustrate the flexibility of the organizational changes now being implemented in the Corps. To read a full description of the position, its qualification requirements, and application instructions go to the [vacancy announcement at the USAJOBS website](#). The closing date is November 14, 2003.

## **New Federal Discount Rate – 5- 5/8 Percent**

The Federal discount rate for water resources projects for Fiscal Year 2004 is five and five-eighths percent (5-5/8 %), effective October 1, 2003. This is down one-quarter (1/4) point from Fiscal Year 2003's rate, 5-7/8 percent. One-quarter point is the maximum allowable yearly change. The Economic Guidance Memorandum officially announcing the Federal discount rate and the other interest rates commonly used will be issued in early November. *[The Editor.]* 

## **Water Supply Seminar**

*Ted Hillyer – CEIWR-PD*

In the fall of 2002 the Corps of Engineers reinstituted the Planning Associates Program, administered in HQUSACE by Russ Rangos. As part of this program the Northwestern Division was tasked to put together a one-week training module for the Planning Associates class to cover hydropower, water supply, and recreation components. Each component was to be a one-day session followed by a field trip later in the week. Mr. Martin Hudson, Chief of Planning in the Portland District, was responsible for the development of the weeklong program. Mr. Ted Hillyer of the Institute for Water Resources was subsequently tasked with developing the water supply session, and Mr. Steve Cone (HQUSACE), Mr. Edwin Woodruff (Northwestern Division), and Ms. Janet Holsomback (Tulsa District) willingly agreed to assist in the presentations.

A report has been developed that includes a slightly modify version of the PowerPoint presentations given to the Planning Associates class on 24 June 2003 in Portland, Oregon. The material covers the various aspects of the Corps municipal and industrial water supply program, including authorities, policies and procedures, economic analysis, reallocation, database and emerging issues. The data presented could serve as a starting point for similar one-day water supply seminars that may be given in the future. While laws, policies, and procedures do change, the use of this report as a starting point will prevent the need to “reinvent the wheel.”

The report on the full Portland session has now been printed (IWR Report 03-R-1 *Water Supply Seminar*, dated September 2003). This document is also accessible from the Institute for [Water Resources Homepage](#). This report is the first of two listed under “Two new IWR water supply reports available.”

For additional information on this project you may contact Ted Hillyer at:  
[Theodore.M.Hillyer@WRC01.USACE.ARMY.MIL](mailto:Theodore.M.Hillyer@WRC01.USACE.ARMY.MIL) 

## **Rule for Sponsor's Feasibility Study Cost Share Payments Timing To Be Relaxed (Somewhat)**

For about the last 18 months a sponsor's requirement to pay 50 percent of feasibility study costs has meant that the sponsor must pay exactly 50 percent of any given year's study cost in that given year. No sponsor provided funds beyond 50 percent could be accepted. Now, that strict 50 percent year-by-year interpretation is yielding – somewhat – to the idea that 50 percent overall is the more important feature of the cost share formula. We say “somewhat” because the exact degree of relaxation is not yet clear. HQ Chief Counsel's office has given the OK – that is, has said it's legally permissible to deviate in certain ways from strict yearly fifty-fifty splits – but so far it isn't known exactly what shape policy will take. The issue is being worked at HQ Policy Division. Counsel's legal opinion was circulated in CECC-G Bulletin No. 03-08. It's in your local Counsel's office, so track it down if you want to take a shot at anticipating policy. The Office of Chief Counsel's legal opinion is and was intended to be narrow in its scope, addressing only a sponsor “accelerating” its cost share payment; it influences but does not in itself determine policy. Guidance will be issued through Civil Works in the proximate future.

*[The Editor. Thanks to Curt Meeder, CELRP, for the lead]* 


## **Corps of Engineers – The Nature Conservancy: Partnering Session**

*Dr. Hank Jarboe CELRD-CM-P*

On September 8 and 9, 2003, members of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) met for a Partnering Session at the Tim Horton Conference Center in Campbellsville, Kentucky. Attending the meeting were TNC national officials and State Directors from their Midwest Division (KY, IL, MI, IN, NE, MN, WI, OH, and Canada) and representatives from 13 COE Districts, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Missouri Valley Division, and the Northwest Division offices. Appropriately, the meeting was held near Green River Lake, the site of a joint conservation effort among the TNC, COE, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, numerous academic institutions, and community groups. Jim Aldrich, Kentucky's TNC Director, and Col. Robert Rowlette, Commander Louisville Engineer District, jointly sponsored the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to share information on respective programs, authorities, and projects of mutual interest. A presentation was provided by Mike Turner (COE, Louisville District) on “Perspective on Corps Continuing and Specific Authorities, Including Corps/TNC Partnership Projects.” Richie Kessler and Ted Illston of the TNC presented “TNC: Conservation By Design,” and ESWM (Ecologically Sustainable Water Management). An interim session on “Some Lessons Learned, The Green River Example,” provided for informative discussion between members of the two organizations. It was noted how important it was for partners to be up front and honest about such factors as funding cycles and approval times. Particular points of frustration have been the rigid language in the Corps Model Project Cost Sharing Agreement (PCA), the Corps decision document processes, and TNC's use of conservation easements. It was agreed that establishing an understanding and educating partners at the initiation of a project results in fewer frustrations throughout the study and implementation phases. Also

expressed was the importance of including the public and stakeholders in the process early and keeping them informed throughout the project. Maintaining this contact can reveal additional opportunities to augment the project, and eliminate or minimize many concerns that people might have regarding negative impacts of the proposed project. Lastly, it was emphasized that goals of ecosystem restoration projects must be realistic. Projects need to be good enough to restore the environment to a less impacted condition, but efforts to perfect projects can compromise the authorized project purposes or increase costs so much that the project may never be implemented.

The final meeting activity was a canoe trip on the beautiful Green River, with destination at the Handy Section 1135 project, a restoration project of the Louisville District cost shared with TNC as sponsor. For additional information contact [Dr. Hank Jarboe](#). 

## **Two New Policy Compliance Staffers**

*Doug Lamont – CECW-PC*


Two HQ staffers have transferred to Policy Compliance Support Branch –

JOHN MICIK – a native of Greenwich, Connecticut, John has worked in the Headquarters since 1978. He comes to the Planning and Policy Division from the Programs Management Division where he worked as a Program Manager for legislation, fiscal policy, project deauthorization, and centralized programs. Prior to joining the Corps of Engineers, John served on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army. He is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from New York University, his Master of Public Administration Degree from Penn State University, and his Juris Doctor Degree from the George Mason University School of Law. He is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

John recently completed a one-year professional development assignment in the Office of the Chief Counsel, during which he reviewed decision documents and project cooperation agreements and participated in numerous Headquarters PDT meetings and discussions.


CLIFF FITZSIMMONS – Cliff has 24 years of Corps experience, primarily in water resources planning. He started his career with a consulting firm in Idaho, providing planning and design services for small municipalities. Three years later he began his Corps career in hydraulic design in the Walla Walla District, working primarily on fish hatchery, fish passage and flood control projects. After a couple of years, he switched to planning and served as a study manager, plan formulation branch chief, and assistant planning division chief. He was involved in a variety of planning actions that dealt mainly with flood control, hydropower, fish passage and inland navigation issues. He came to Headquarters in 1996 as the regional water resources planning manager supporting the Southwest Division. Following a brief assignment in the Office of Congressional Affairs, he has for the past five years served as the senior water resources planner facilitating Washington-level planning actions for the Mississippi Valley Division.

He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Idaho, and is a 1995 graduate of the Planners and Project Managers Program (the previous Planning Associates program). He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Washington, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. 

## **Flood Proofing Information Wanted**

*National Nonstructural/Flood Proofing Committee*

The National Nonstructural/Flood Proofing Committee is updating its 1994 publication, [\*Local Flood Proofing Programs\*](#). The current publication can be viewed at the [National Flood Proofing Committee homepage](#).


The document identifies the factors that communities should consider in establishing flood proofing programs, provides overviews of case studies of existing programs, and contains examples of pertinent documents used by various communities in developing their programs. In the update we want to include more information on *non-Federally* funded nonstructural projects. So, if you have information about any state- or locally-funded nonstructural projects, especially flood proofing projects, please contact Larry Buss at [larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil) and he'll take it from there. 

## **Active Water Supply Map**

*Ted Hillyer – CEIWR-PD*

Want to know where the Corps water supply is located? Now there is an on-line U.S. map that shows the site of each of the Corps municipal and industrial, and irrigation water supply projects. All you have to do is go to the [IWR homepage](#) and click on "Specialties" (in the list at the far left). On the Specialties screen click on "Water Use." Go to the bottom of the Water Use page and click on "Corps Water Supply and Irrigation Map." (Depending on your computer, for some of you it may be necessary to right click and "Save Target As...") Now, just click on the image for the project you are interested in finding: the state, project name, Corps district, number of contracts, storage space allocated to the purpose and associated costs. The data shows that for municipal and industrial water supply there are 237 contracts in 117 projects in 24 states plus Puerto Rico in 22 of our districts. Total storage space is over 9.5 million acre-feet and the reimbursable cost is just over \$1.3 billion. For irrigation water supply, there are 40 projects in 14 states in 9 of our districts. Total storage is almost 53 million acre-feet, but most all of that is joint use with other purposes. Total Federal investment is just under \$1.3 billion. Five of the projects contain municipal and industrial as well as irrigation water. The data on Corps projects was obtained from the Water Supply Handbook, IWR Report 96-PS-4, revised December 1998.


Monica Franklin developed this map with assistance from Douglas Lee, both of whom are employees of CEIWR-PD. The method employed by Ms. Franklin is explained in *Developing a Map of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Projects with Municipal and Industrial and Irrigation Water Supply Storage*, IWR Report 03-PS-2, September 2003. This document is also accessible from the Institute for Water Resources [Homepage](#). The report is the second of two listed under "Two new IWR water supply reports available."

For additional information on this project you may contact Ted Hillyer at:  
[Theodore.M.Hillyer@WRC01.USACE.ARMY.MIL](mailto:Theodore.M.Hillyer@WRC01.USACE.ARMY.MIL) 

## **Generic Depth-Damage Functions Are Now Available for Residential Structures With Basements**


*Stuart Davis – CEIWR-MD*

Headquarters has just published “Economic Guidance Memorandum (EGM) 04-01, [Generic Depth-Damage Relationships for Residential Structures with Basements](#).”

The new EGM gives percent-damage-to-structure and percent-damage-to-contents for single-family homes with basements. This supplements damage functions already published for residential structures without basements. Standard deviations are given for inclusion into HEC-FDA for risk-based computation of expected annual damages. IWR and several Corps district offices collected the data for these damage functions and IWR computed the damage functions. The work was funded and managed through the Flood Damage Data Collection Program. Lillian Almodovar, CECW-PG, is the Headquarters monitor for the program. 

## **Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead**

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

## **Subscribing to Planning Ahead**

To subscribe or to our distribution list, send an e-mail message to [majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil](mailto:majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil) with no subject line and only a single line of text in the message body.

That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to [majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil](mailto:majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil) 

## **Submissions Deadline**

The deadline for material for the next issue is 26 November 2003.

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